

nation's greatest leaders—the leaders of liberation. When jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composed a letter in the margins of a newspaper and continued writing on scraps of paper some of the most powerful words ever written. He eloquently described many injustices suffered by so many African Americans. Near the end of that letter, he noted that, "One day the South will recognize its real heroes." Those heroes are the leaders of liberation—leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and the Little Rock Nine. These leaders stood up and sat down for what they believed in: equality and freedom for all. Their actions changed our nation forever, and for that we are grateful.

I had the distinct privilege to recognize the efforts of Rosa Parks and the Little Rock Nine when we in Congress presented them with the Congressional Gold Medal for their efforts to break down racial barriers and fulfill the legacy of liberation. I am also pleased to have supported legislation to construct the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in our nation's capital. This memorial, which is to be built along the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC., will honor Dr. King's dream of freedom and equality for all.

I also ask you to consider the impact African Americans have had in politics and civil rights right here in southeastern North Carolina. We should call attention to the African-American leaders who served our nation and our communities in ways unimaginable 100 years ago or even 50 years ago. African Americans now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. These advances would not have been possible without those pioneers who opened doors of opportunity for all. I'm speaking of local leaders from southeastern North Carolina, such as Hiram Rhoades Revels, the first African-American member of Congress; Minnie Evans, an artist from this area whose work hangs in the White House; Meadowlark Lemon, the clown prince of basketball who led the Harlem Globetrotters to world prominence; and Michael Jordan, the greatest athlete in the history of basketball. By listening to and learning from these African-American leaders of the past and present, we can honor their legacies and strengthen our own liberty.

On the night before his assassination, Dr. King prophetically said, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land." Together, we will fulfill the legacy of liberation through listening, learning, and leading, so that we might one day reach the Promised Land that Dr. King dreamed of for all Americans—a land of equality, freedom and justice for all. It begins now. It begins with us. We have listened! We have learned! We must lead!

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE PEACE CORPS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, It is a great pleasure to congratulate the Peace Corps as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding. This truly is a milestone.

Founded in 1961, the Peace Corps has sought to meet its legislative mandate of promoting world peace and friendship by sending American volunteers to serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns in all corners of the globe. Living and working with ordinary people, volunteers contributed in a variety of capacities—such as teachers, foresters, farmers, small business advisors—to improving the lives of those they serve. They also seek to share their understanding of other countries with Americans back home.

As a returned volunteer, I can attest to the positive impact Peace Corps volunteers have on the lives of people around the world and here in the United States. Volunteers are not high-priced consultants but hands-on workers in the trenches who live in the communities they serve. In many cases, they speak the native language and become a part of the local culture.

To date, more than 151,000 volunteers have served in 132 countries. Currently, 7,300 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 76 countries, helping improve the lives of children, their families and their communities.

Volunteers also come back to the United States with a commitment to service, as well as the skills and interest in world affairs needed to be leaders in the global community. Many successful Americans served in the Peace Corps; their Peace Corps skills and perspectives shaped their lives and their careers back home. A few of the many notable alumni include Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut, who served in the Dominican Republic from 1966 until 1968, Donna Shalala, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, who served in Iran from 1962 until 1964, and Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, who served as Country Director in Morocco from 1970 until 1972.

I believe I would not be a Member of Congress today were it not for my experience in the Peace Corps and know I am a better person for my service.

The Peace Corps has played an important role overseas and here at home. And my prayer is that it will do so for many years to come.

TO HONOR DELEGATE HARRY J. PARRISH FOR 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I speak today after reading in a local paper that Delegate Harry J.

Parrish, of Manassas, Virginia, has recently been recognized by the Virginia General Assembly for 50 years of public service. I want to bring to my colleagues' attention some highlights of this gentleman's exemplary career of service to the people of Manassas, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

Delegate Harry Parrish was born on February 19, 1922, on a farm in Fairfax County, Virginia. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Manassas where his father bought a coal and ice company and renamed it the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., which is still in existence today. As he was growing up, his father encouraged him to pursue flying, an interest that led him to fly for the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Parrish graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 where he was a member of Prince William County's first high school football team. He then attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute to seek a degree in business administration. His courses were accelerated at the onset of the American involvement in World War II, and in 1942, Mr. Parrish enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Parrish had a remarkable and distinguished military career. He was one of only 17 Americans hand selected to attend the Royal Air Force Flight School, No. 5 where he graduated as a pilot, navigator, bombardier, radio operator and armaments man. Through his extensive training, Mr. Parrish became one of the legendary pilots who served in the China-Burma-India Theater where he "flew the hump" and delivered vital war supplies to our troops. Of all his accomplishments, his experiences in World War II are the moments in his life of which he is the most proud.

While on active duty, Mr. Parrish was a flight commander, squadron commander, wing operations officer and base operations officer. Following the war, Mr. Parrish went into the Air Force Reserves and served active tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Mr. Parrish retired from the Air Force in 1971 with the rank of full colonel and with multiple awards and decorations including the Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Mr. Parrish returned home to work for his father in his ice and fuel business. Mr. Parrish again followed in his father's footsteps when he began serving the Town of Manassas in 1951 as town councilman. He served as councilman until being elected mayor of Manassas in 1963. Mr. Parrish served as mayor for 18 years during which time the town became a city. His service as mayor had such a positive impact on Manassas that in 1973 he was named the "Town of Manassas Man of the Century." He left his position as mayor and ran successfully for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1981, a post which he holds to this day.

Mr. Parrish is currently the co-chairman of the House Finance Committee and a member of the House Committees on Conservation and Natural Resources, Commerce and Labor, Corporations, Insurance and Banking, Rules and Joint Rules.

Mr. Parrish also serves on numerous state and local legislative and civic boards including